

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: March YEAR: 2007
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist
	DATE: April 17, 2007
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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Record warm temperatures decimated snow pack in Eastern Idaho in March. The rapid snowmelt over frozen ground impacted some higher elevation towns and pastureland and caused numerous road closures for nearly a week. Road and bridge damage estimates in Fremont County, Idaho are \$44,000, with home damage estimates not yet disclosed. If the extremely warm temperatures were not enough in March, precipitation was bleak as well. Precipitation for the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) was only 65% of normal. Combined warm temperatures and low precipitation have and will continue to influence Drought Monitor classifications, which are currently “Abnormally Dry” and “Moderate Drought”.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

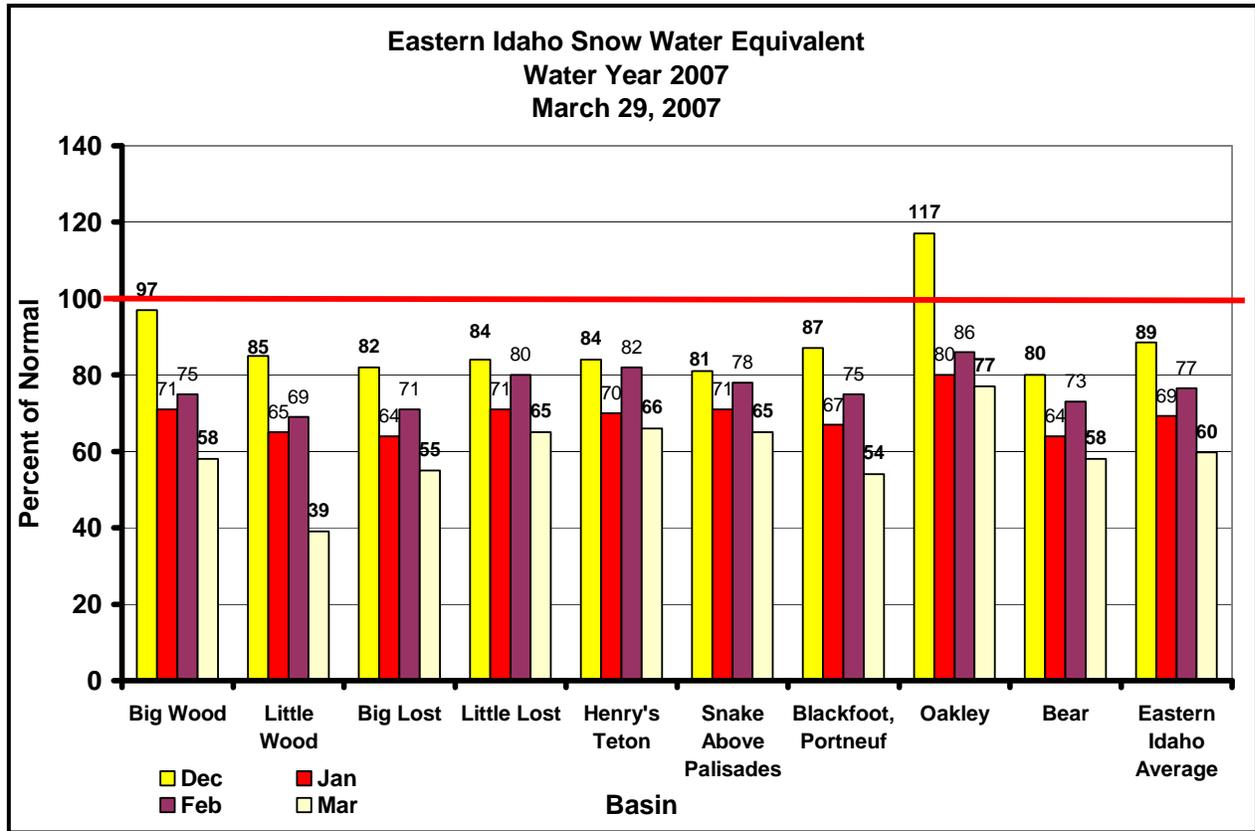
The entire HSA received an average of 65.42% of normal precipitation for 54 of 56 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Only eight of the reporting stations received above normal precipitation in March, with Woodruff, Utah topping the list at 153.3%. Nearly three quarters of the stations received less than 75% of normal precip. Aberdeen, Ashton and Idaho Falls Airport recorded the least with only 17.8%, 13.3% and 2.67% of normal, respectively.

River Levels

River levels across the Pocatello HSA were well above normal for March due to record warm temperatures. However, by month-end, they quickly began to return to normal, eventually dropping below normal in April as most of the snow had run off weeks ahead of normal runoff seasons.

Snowpack

Eastern Idaho's snowpack dropped dramatically between February and March. Eastern Idaho's March basin-average snow water equivalent decreased to 60% from 77% in February.



Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 91% of capacity¹, up 12% from March 8, 2007².

Reservoir	% Capacity February 28 ³	% Capacity March 30 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	85	98	13	114	109
Bear Lake	39	43	4	66	137
Blackfoot	50	52	2	80	181
Henry's Lake	91	93	2	98	98
Island Park	87	88	1	104	115
Little Wood	92	98	6	152	555
Mackay	70	79	9	108	1047
Magic	65	80	15	143	198
Oakley	57	63	6	133	117
Palisades	75	84	9	125	139
Ririe	55	66	11	129	112
Lake Walcott	36 ²	101 ¹	65	n/a	n/a
Milner	88 ²	91 ¹	3	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), April 16, 2007; (2) BOR, March 8, 2007; (3) NRCS, February 28, 2007; (4) NRCS, March 30, 2007.

Drought

Dramatic changes in snowpack revealed themselves in April 1 water supply forecasts. The only redeeming features for this year's water supply are solid reservoir levels and adequate soil moisture. Drought classifications deteriorated to "Moderate Drought", D1, across Southern Idaho. Deterioration will also likely occur in the Central Mountains as spring continues.

March 2007 Hydrologic Product Summary

The following hydrologic products were issued in March.

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flash Flood Statement	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Statement	0
Flood Watch for Flooding	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	10
Hydrologic Outlook	0
Hydrologic Statement	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0

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Pocatello WFO Forecasters and HMTs